

We know that one of the greatest assets of the United States is our values and culture. Through symbols like the the Lincoln Memorial or the economic engine of Hollywood, the United States advances our goals with people in other lands who may never even visit America. Recently, Arab-language satellite networks like Al Jazeera built a relentlessly anti-American and anti-Israeli view of the world. As an open society, we cannot silence their voice but we can respond.

President Truman helped found the Voice of America that helped win the Cold War. Under Edward R. Murrow's leadership, we built an overseas audience based on the timely and objective delivery of the news. That approach is now working again -- this time using satellite TV broadcast to the Arab world. I serve on the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the "Alhurra" TV network. Started in 2004, more than 21 million people in the Arab world now watch Alhurra's programs -- produced here in the U.S. Alhurra's audience is growing at 15% a year. More than 70% of its audience reports that they have confidence in Alhurra's news -- far higher than Al Jazeera.

Alhurra's sister service, Radio Sawa, is even more successful. Independent rating agencies now report that the American-produced Radio Sawa is the number one radio station of the West Bank. Using a mixture of balanced news and the latest music, Radio Sawa is performing a role in advancing the voice of moderation where the U.S. and Israel need it most.